



NEWS RELEASE

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Mill Creek High School student wins international art contest

America Garcia has been recognized as one of the most talented young artists on the planet. The Mill Creek High School senior won the **Unsung Hero ArtEffect Project Awards, Grand Prize**. Sponsored by the **Lowell Milken Center (LMC)**, the annual art competition is open to all middle and high school students (grades 6-12) from around the world. The competition seeks to:

- Discover extraordinary individuals who changed history yet were never recognized.
- Create an artistic interpretation that honors the legacy of an Unsung Hero.
- Change the world for the better by inspiring positive social action through the project.



Pictured left to right: Mill Creek HS Student America Garcia and her teacher, Mike Lasseter

America, whose work of art titled, *Hiawatha, The Leader We Need*, received a check for \$6,000 during a surprise award presentation in front of 60 of her peers. **Mike Lasseter**, America’s visual arts teacher, is proud of his talented pupil. He says, “I want to spread the word far and wide! America is an amazing student— intelligent, kind, hardworking, positive, and respectful. I couldn’t be happier for her. She is wonderful and deserves this recognition.”

The ArtEffect Project teaches students their power to affect positive change through creative storytelling that celebrates Unsung Heroes from history. By inviting U.S. and international middle and high school students to submit high-quality creative visual arts projects, the ArtEffect Project emphasizes the creative interpretation of an LMC Unsung Hero’s story in a unique and compelling way. Winning projects may be chosen for display in LMC’s Hall of Unsung Heroes in Fort Scott, Kansas.

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